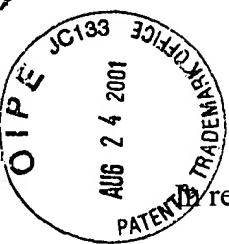


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M.L.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: Shah et al  
Application No: 09/844,717  
Filing Date: April 27, 2001  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Group Art No: 2131  
Attorney Docket Number: 68110328.714  
For: Database Security

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, line 6 delete "\_\_\_\_\_" and place in lieu thereof --09/837,114--.

**Remarks**

Applicants claim priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/199,975 filed April 27, 2000 and U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 09/837,114 filed April 17, 2001. At the time of filing, Application Serial Number 09/837,114 was not yet available. Applicants have amended the specification to reflect the correct priority document serial number accordingly.

The Applicants believe that no fees are required in connection with this filing. However, to the extent that fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 13-0480, Attorney Docket No. 68110328.714.